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QUARTERLY REPORT

Project Name: Socioeconomic Reintegration of Vulnerable Rural Malian Households

Country: Mali

Agreement Number: AID-OFDA-G-14-00066

Reporting Period: January- March 2015

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OVERVIEW

Due to security, geographic and economic situation of the intervention areas, activity implementation was often delayed.

In order to rectify the situation, the National Emergency Coordinator and the Emergency information manager went to Niafunké on January 2015 to provide support to the project team.

The mission objective was:

- Analyze the project's progress;
- Analyze the different constraints by component (Rice Production, Market gardening, IGA and Livestock);
- Develop a corrective action plan and capacity reinforcement;
- To review the planning and Deadlines.

To discuss the above issues, a meeting with all the project partners (local NGOs, mayors, the local traders representatives, agricultural and livestock technical services and the beneficiary representatives) was organized in the city of Niafunké.

At the end of the meeting, a detailed action plan was established for January-June, 2015.

Knowing that the end of the project was scheduled for February 28, 2015, CARE successfully applied for a No Cost Extension (NCE) of 4 months to shift the project end date from March to June 2015.

This quarter was marked primarily by the implementation of the following activities:

- Support the season against (Production RICE) for returnees in the municipality of Soumpti;
- Training of trainers in micro enterprises;
- Capacity building of IGA beneficiaries on micro enterprise management;
- Cash transfer to the beneficiaries to finance their income generating activities (IGA);
- Support for restocking (goats) through goat fairs;
- Crops monitoring for RICE production.



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SECTOR 1 NAME: AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

Objective: Provide support to vulnerable households in restarting agricultural production and livestock rearing

Subsector name: Improving Agricultural Production/Food Security

Support to off-season crop

In the village of Dofana, Soumpi town, the 160 planned returnees (45 women, 115 men) received their seeds (Rice) and agricultural inputs (urea and phosphate) and fuel for their motor-pumps. The amount of distributed seeds and agricultural inputs is 28 tons and 4,000 liters of diesel for motor-pumps. The cultivated area is 81.75 hectares divided between 4 VIP (Village Irrigated Perimeters).

The 160 beneficiary households are 807 individuals (356 women, 452 men).

A monitoring report on the results of harvests will be shared in the next quarter.

Subsector name: Livestock

The project planned 4 to 5 goats (1 male) to 1000 beneficiaries (400 women included) for the support and assistance of the livestock sub-sector which is vital for the reconstruction of the goat population. Under the terms of the targeting process, 1,092 beneficiaries whose 921 returnees (546 women and 375 men) and 170 residents (97 women, 73 men) each received an envelope of \$158 (95,000 FCFA in local currency) for the acquisition of goats. We have succeeded in buying 3-4 goats per beneficiary. This amount also takes into account the costs for the veterinary care of the animals.

A fair was organized to bring together different stakeholders (beneficiaries, livestock traders, suppliers in cash transfer, and the technical services) for the implementation this activity.

Recipients are strongly involved in the acquisition process. In order to not decide for them, they have the freedom and power to choose and negotiate the goats as it pleases them. The project team includes two veterinary who assisted and advised them in the field of animal health, particularly on the good practices of animal husbandry and nutritional care.

The aim of the project was the assistance of 1,000 beneficiaries of which 400 women, this was not only achieved but it also significantly exceeded the target with 9% and 61% respectively. The number of goats provided was 3,518 heads with 2,438 females.



SECTOR 2 NAME: ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND MARKET SYSTEMS

Objective: Provide livelihoods restoration support to households affected by the North Mali Crisis

Subsector name: Livelihoods Restoration

This is to revive the economy of vulnerable households through income generating activities (IGA), which they undertook before the crisis and were affected.

The beneficiaries are mostly women and returnees. 1,252 beneficiaries including 862 women, 626 returnees each received \$ 69 (USD dollar rate in 23/02 was equal to 570 FCFA) to finance their income generating activities.

The types of performed activities are:

- Handicrafts: These are the shoemaking business, local jewelry, mortars manufacturing etc.
- Small trading activities: Activities related to the sale of donuts, condiments, tubers, juice, beverage, candy, cereals (millet, rice, sorghum ...), local bread, cloth etc.
- Tailoring: This is the local sewing and weavers.
- Small catering: This is about the local catering, commonly called "Gargote".

Before transferring the cash to the beneficiaries, the training of trainers (the supervisor of partner NGOs, CARE Agents) followed by training of beneficiaries on capacity building in microenterprise was performed. All the beneficiaries received training on the theme: **"HOW TO SELECT, PLAN AND MANAGE YOUR IGA SUCCESSFULLY"**. (Feedback on this training will be available upon request once the report is completed by our M&E staff.)

According to the Targeting Report, 88% of the recipients wish to practice small trade activities as their IGA, followed by 9% for Handicrafts, and 3% for tailoring and local catering.

A follow-up report on the use of funds and profitability of the activities highlighting the project indicators is being developed. It will be shared next quarter.

CHALLENGES FACED

- Frequent attacks by armed bandits in the intervention areas to dispossess people of their property, particularly in the areas of Soumpi, Léré and Tonka;
- The organization of fairs: when planning, CARE had to take into account the Possible infiltration of bandits and mitigate the risk of this happening;
- The security challenge: Psychosis of the project team related to residual insecurity.

MONITORING TRACKING TABLE

Award level and sector level beneficiaries reached this quarter:

	Total number of beneficiaries	IDP Beneficiaries	Total
Sector 1: Agriculture and Food Security	171	1,081	1,252
Sector 2: Livelihoods restoration	626	626	1,252
Total (do not include repeat beneficiaries)	797	1,707	2,504



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Indicator	Target	Q1-3	Q4	Q5	Cumulative	% of target met	Comments
Sector Name. Agriculture and Food Security							
Subsector Name Improving Agricultural Production/Food Security							
Indicator 1: Projected increase in number of months of food self-sufficiency due to distributed seed systems/agricultural input for beneficiary households	4 months	0	5 months		5 months		Post distribution and Evaluation surveys report (February to March 2015).
Indicator 2: Number of people benefiting from seed systems/agricultural input activities, by sex	2000 (incl. 1,200 women)	3,213 (incl. 2,710 women)	160 returnees (Support for Dry Season). Incl. 45 women		4,373 (incl 2,755 women i.e. 63%) and 628 returnees	219% of total target met; 230% of women target met.	Overtake of more than 200 % planned results is due to the large numbers of beneficiaries retained for gardening activities.
Subsector Name Livestock							
Indicator 1: Number of animals benefiting from or affected by livestock activities	4,000	0	3,518 goats, incl, 2438 females.		3,518 goats, incl, 2438 females.	88% of the total target met. 81% of females targeted met.	The prices of goats have drastically increased at fairs because sellers knew that it is USAID, which funds for beneficiaries.
Indicator 2: Number of people benefiting from livestock activities, by sex	1,000 (incl. 400 women)	0	1,092 incl, 643 women.		1,092 incl, 643 women and 921 returnees.	109% of total target met; 161% of women target met.	
Indicator 3: Number of veterinary interventions (e.g., treatments, vaccinations, etc.)	0	0					The amount distributed to beneficiaries takes into account the treatments, vaccinations fees.
Sector Name. Economic Recovery and Market Systems							
Subsector Name. Livelihoods Restoration							
Indicator 1: Number of people assisted through livelihood restoration activities, disaggregated by sex	1,000 incl 750 IDPs and Returnees (750 women)	0	1,252 incl, 862 women and 626 IDPs/Returnees		1,252 incl, 862 women and 626 IDPs/Returnees	125% of total target met; 115% of women target met; 83% of IDPs/Returnees target met.	The returned persons (who could not benefit) are currently being planned in order to receive funding for their income generating activities.
Indicator 2: Percent of beneficiaries reporting their livelihoods restored within three to six months after	90%	0					Post Distribution and Evaluation surveys ongoing



receiving support							
Indicator 3: Total USD amount channeled into the program area through sub-sector activities	\$98,950	0	\$83,575		\$83,575	84% of total target met.	The volatility of the dollar (rate increase) has greatly influenced the initial amount in the budget. Other vulnerable beneficiaries will be targeted.

January and February 2015 were devoted to the rice harvest in all village irrigated perimeters of Niafunké circle. A study on the monitoring of the harvest took place across all the villages that benefited from the project's support. The aim of the study was: firstly, to assess the level of return on the investment, and secondly, estimate the average number of months of food coverage of rice requirement of each supported households.

The lessons learned will help CARE Mali, its partners and other stakeholders of Food Security Cluster to improve their intervention on the same. The analyzed data concerns 935 supported beneficiaries (129 women and 806 men farmers) by the project. The harvested areas vary from 0.25Ha to more than one hectare. The number of the villages is 57 from 6 communes of Niafunké circle and one commune of Tonka in Goundam circle. In summary, the following results were achieved:

- There is a considerable increase in production due to the support. The comparative analysis of the harvest between the 2013 and 2014 rice campaigns among the 856 recipients (92%) having produced during the two periods showed an increase from 4 to 100% in production.

Planted area (hectares)	Minimum harvest in sacks Paddy (75 kg)			Average harvest in sacks Paddy (75 kg)			Maximum harvest in sacks Paddy (75 kg)		
	Year 2013	Year 2014	Increase rate	Year 2013	Year 2014	Increase rate	Year 2013	Year 2014	Increase rate
0,25	5	10	100%	18	25	61%	40	52	30%
0,5	7	8	14%	20	30	50%	60	70	17%
0,75	10	16	60%	28	29	4%	48	78	63%

Source: CARE, Rice Production Monitoring Report

- The loads on harvest (operating expenses) represent 27 to 30% on average depending on the planted area.

The analysis of the views of the beneficiaries indicated that 65%, 75%, and 60% of the beneficiaries with area under crops respectively 0.25 hectare, 0.50 hectare; and 0.75 hectare will be able to provide food coverage for 5 months.

In terms of recommendations, 25% of the beneficiaries recommend continuing with the support in the provision of quality seed (from the Seed Centre of Niono) to ensure a good performance level of the rice producers. In addition, according to 30% of the beneficiaries, fertilizers and the fees are the biggest expenditure items.



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MAIN ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER

- 1) Pilot experience of Dry Season Rice Production**
 - Production Monitoring
- 2) Market Gardening component**
 - Motor-pumps for VIP with difficulties
 - Production Monitoring and Follow up
 - Production Profitability surveys
 - Profitability Report and Dissemination
- 3) Income Generating Activities (IGA)**
 - 233 returnees (women) will be assisted
 - Income Generating Activities Monitoring
 - IGA Profitability surveys and Report
- 4) Livestock**
 - Monitoring and Follow up of Livestock activities
- 5) Final Evaluation**
 - Final Evaluation survey and report
 - Final Executive Reports (Narrative and Finance)
- 6) Documentation/Success**
 - Weekly Activities Note/Pictures
 - Quarterly Report /Best Practices and Success documentation

PICTURES

- Visit of the VIP (Village Irrigated Perimeters) for the off-season crops



Rice nursery covered with leaves to facilitate the germination and protect from birds , VIP of Acherifan & Imagran, SOUMPI Commune. CARE, Photo I.KATILE.



Rice nursery, VIP of Acherifan & Imagran, SOUMPI Commune CARE, Photo I.KATILE.

- Cash transfer for Income Generating Activities



Family Picture of the IGA beneficiaries , from Maréciré Village, N'GORKOU Commune, Niafunké Circle. CARE, Photo M.GUIMBAYARA.



A disabled IGA beneficiary from Niafunké showing his card and received money. CARE, Photo M.GUIMBAYARA.

Testimonies : Small conversation with some beneficiaries



Horsy Samba COULIBALY, 28 years old in charge of 5 people:

«I am very glad to be a recipient. I will be able to start up my condiment selling activities »

Doubo SANKARE, 32 years old in charge of 3 people:

“My main activity is selling groundnuts which wasn't stable. I'm very happy because this money will help me stabilize it”.

Nia SOMARE, 26 years in charge of 4 people:

Very excited: « laugh..., I'm going to use the money to sell doughnuts »



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From left to right: Horsy Samba Coulibaly, Doubo Sankaré, Nia Somaré. IGA 's beneficiaries from Maréciré village, N'GORKOU Commune.

Testimony collected by CARE, M.GUIMBAYARA



**Foires aux chèvres dans le village de Merkoré, Commune de Tonka/GOUNDAM
CARE, Photo H. SISSAO**



**Sensitization of the beneficiaries before the launching of the Fairs
Tonka, AMSS, Photo O. Ahmadou**



**Women beneficiaries showing their cards at Merkoré (Tonka)
CARE, Photo H. SISSAO**



**A Veterinary specialist (CARE agent) examining the animals 'health
condition at SOUMPI.
IMADEL, Photo H. SARRE**



**Each Beneficiary holding a goat on Dofana Site, Soumpi commune.
CARE, Photo I.KATILE**



**Pregnant beneficiary holding her 3 goats in Tonka village, commune
of Tonka.
CARE, Photo I.KATILE**



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SOME TESTIMONIES OF THE LIVESTOCK FAIR



Idrissa Mossa, beneficiary from Debi Yourmi Site, Tonka commune. Testimony collected by CARE, H.SISSAO

«My name is Idrissa Mossa Yattara from Yourmi village, I am 45 years old and we are six in my household. This assistance in goats reassure us because the events in the north disturbed the livestock, added to the lack of rain it is solitude. I am thankful to the support.

The distribution process was very clear, after receiving my coupon, I freely chose and bargained the goats' price. I wish we are also helped in cattle food because the fodder is lacking and the pastures are striped in the area this year. We thank CARE-OFDA and AMSS



Safiatou Walet Aldjumat, beneficiary from Merkoré Site, Tonka commune. Testimony collected by CARE, H.SISSAO

A 55 years old married housewife with 8 children and habitant of Merkoré village:

« I am very happy; this support will help me restore my park. When the goats calve, i will have a small cattle and milks for my children and i. I wouldn't have received these goats without you (CARE and USAID). All i can do is thank my helpers.»

26 years old native of Merkoré village, housewife and mother with 7 people in the household:

« God willing in a few months these goats will calve , though the feed is less this year, these animals can live in our area. Soon, I will be able to milk them and benefit from the milk and butter. When they will start multiplying, I will be able to face the financial challenges of the household by selling a head ».





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Tinimoud Walet Mogaye (escorted by her children), beneficiary from Merkoré Site, Tonka commune.
Testimony collected by CARE, H.SISSAO



60 years old widow native of Merkoré village in charge of 6 people:

« Currently, we face a lot of challenges due to the security situation. That's why these goats are Godsend and I can't express my happiness. I endlessly thank the donors USAID and CARE Mali. With some care and food, their reproduction is assured and my problems will dissipate over time. »



Halimatou Hamadoun (with the white veil), a beneficiary from Assabol village, Tonka commune bargaining the price.
Témoignage recueilli par CARE, H.SISSAO

Native of Assabol village 45 years married and mother of 4:

« I am very happy for the support, no one ignores the fact that we are in difficulties in our countered. Our daily activities are carried out in order to constitute our livestock, now with these goats I will take care of them hoping to drink the milk. Those who helped us did a lot and therefore as beneficiaries we need to show that we deserved it »



Fadimata Alhousseini (helped by her husband), a beneficiary from Echelle village, a commune of Tonka.
Testimony collected by CARE, H.SISSAO

A 40 years old native of Echelle village in charge of 6 people:

« God willing for your next visit here, we will be very happy to show you a great number of goats. To our helpers, we thank you endlessly. May God help our donors to be able to help us more. May God give us peace and security! »



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ANNEX 1:

The work plan is attached to this report. (See attachment)